



OF THE  
**BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON**

A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *UPUCERTHIA DUMETARIA*  
(Family FURNARIIDAE) FROM PERÚ

BY JOHN T. ZIMMER

Some years ago, Dr. Herbert Friedmann of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., submitted a specimen of earth-creeper from southeastern Perú for examination that appeared to be not only the first member of its species to be taken in Perú but one not clearly assignable to any of the known subspecies. Unfortunately, the bird was labeled as immature and showed some outward signs of that immaturity, making it unsafe to do more than leave the matter in abeyance.

Recently, a second specimen from the same part of Perú was similarly submitted by Carl B. Koford, of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, at Berkeley, California. This specimen is adult and differs from the recognized forms of *dumetaria* even more strongly than the first example. Permission to describe and name the new bird has been kindly given and it is discussed below. For confirmation of my notes on the first example, Dr. Friedmann has again kindly lent the specimen in question which I have thus been able to compare directly with the new type. For these courtesies I am grateful to Mr. Koford and Dr. Friedmann.

Names of colors in the following account are capitalized when direct comparison has been made with Ridgway's "Color Standards and Color Nomenclature."

*Upucerthia dumetaria peruana*, new subspecies

*Type*: from 15 miles east of Juliaca, Dept. Puno, southeastern Perú; altitude 12,500 feet. No. 126399, University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. Adult male collected June 28, 1952, by C. B. Koford; original no. 1525.

*Diagnosis*: General color nearest to that of *U. d. saturator* of central Chile, but bill longer and less abruptly arcuate, equalling that of *U. d. hypoleuca* of northern Chile and northwestern Argentina; rufous area at base of remiges less sharply defined distally; coloration darker than that of *hypoleuca*.

*Range*: Known only from the Temperate Zone of the Department of Puno, southeastern Perú.

*Description of type*: Upper parts dark Hair Brown; the centers of the feathers faintly darker than the margins. Loes whitish, surmounted by a buffy line that is continued posteriad more broadly to the sides of the neck; subocular space and anterior part of auriculars whitish, the feathers margined with dusky; posterior auriculars dark Hair Brown, similarly dark-margined. Chin whitish, unmarked; upper throat

whitish with dusky terminal bars; lower throat and breast near Avellaneous, with dusky brown terminal margins, giving a scaled appearance; malar apex buffy, posterior part more whitish, with dusky tips on both parts; sides of breast Hair Brown with obsolete shaft streaks; belly Tilleul Buff; flanks Vinaceous Buff  $\times$  Light Drab; under tail-coverts pale brown with soiled whitish terminal margins. Remiges largely blackish; a basal area of rufous color, dull on inner web of 4th primary (from outside), and deeper on both webs of remaining inner primaries, continued on both webs of secondaries where, however, the rufous area is exteriorly margined rather broadly with blackish, making a blackish patch on the closed wing; tertials browner with lighter outer margins and tips; primary-coverts dusky with dull, warm brown outer margins; rest of upper wing-coverts with dark brown centers and lighter margins not sharply defined. Median rectrices lacking in this specimen; submedian pair Fuscous on inner web, Fuscous  $\times$  Fuscous Black on outer one; third pair Fuscous Black; 4th and 5th pairs similar but with a deep Wood Brown terminal bar, broader on 5th pair; outermost pair similar but with still broader, though duller, tip on inner web and with that on outer web continued basad for some 25 mm. and then to near the base as a fine outer margin. Bill (in dried skin) dull black; feet brownish black. Wing, 108 mm.; tail 85; exposed culmen, 35; culmen from base, 39; tarsus, 26.5.

*Remarks:* The other specimen from southeastern Perú is a little lighter colored above than the type, but not so light as in *hypoleuca*, and the lateral under parts are also a little lighter. The rufous color of the basal part of the inner primaries and the secondaries is somewhat more extensive than in the type but not sharply defined as in *saturator*, while the blackish exterior margin of part of the rufous patch, so prominent in the type, is obsolete. The bill is shorter than in the type (culmen from base, 37 mm.) but longer than in any certain *saturator* at hand, and is similarly more weakly curved than in *saturator*. This specimen was labeled by the collector as immature and although the plumage appears to be of adult texture, the bill has a somewhat immature appearance and may be shorter than it would have been when fully developed.

Since the type lacks the median rectrices, it may be well to state that these feathers in the second specimen are a little darker than the back and darker than in nearly every example of *saturator* at hand, in spite of the fact that these have darker backs than the Peruvian example. Since the type has the remaining rectrices even deeper blackish than the paratype, it may be suspected that the median rectrices were darker in similar degree.

One uncertain specimen is confusingly labeled "Falls of the Madeira" with this deleted and replaced by "Valparaiso." There is no certainty that it came from the latter place although "Falls of the Madeira" is, of course, impossible. The specimen was collected by H. H. Rusby whose careless labeling I have had earlier occasion to criticize. It is not impossible that the bird came from Lake Titicaca, but Valparaiso seems more probable. The bill is 36 mm. in length—almost as long as in the (immature) Peruvian specimen and has much the same curvature; the rufescence of the inner remiges is sharply defined as in *satu-*

*ratio*; the general coloration is neither that of the Peruvian birds nor that of *saturation*. Another Rusby specimen, labeled "near Valparaiso," is very similar, although the bill is a little shorter (33 mm.). Two other Chilean specimens, without exact locality or date, agree closely with the two Rusby skins and have the bills 33 and 35 mm. respectively, one at the maximum for *saturation* in the series at hand, and the other longer. All four specimens are warmer brown above than *saturation* or *peruana* although darker than *hypoleuca*; the upper wing-coverts are relatively uniform, without paler margins, and the rufous coloration at the base of the remiges is, as noted, sharply defined as in *saturation*. Without reliable data for any of the four specimens, their exact assignment is difficult, but they appear to be nearest to *saturation*.

There is some variation in the series of *hypoleuca* at hand that is not clear. Specimens from the more southern parts of the range in Argentina (Tucumán, Córdoba, and Mendoza) are duller and darker above, and have the margins of the gular and pectoral feathering stronger and more dusky than birds from Jujuy and Salta, although some of the Tucumán specimens are intermediate. It does not appear to be a seasonal distinction but its full significance remains to be determined. Bond and De Schauensee (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 94: 329, 1941) found January and February birds in Bolivia to be more heavily squamulated on the under parts than June and July examples, a pattern of variation that does not apply to the Argentine series now before me. For the present, however, I refer all these specimens to *hypoleuca*.

Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., 19: 166, 1932) called attention to a specimen in the Berlin Museum from Santiago, Chile, that was like *saturation* in coloration but had the bill of *hypoleuca*, the form commonly found in the mountains near Santiago. The description suggests *peruana*, but assignment to that form would be problematical without actual comparison. If it should prove to belong to *peruana*, the status of that form would be reduced to that of a migrant both in Perú and in the neighborhood of Santiago, Chile; its breeding range would need to be determined but would, of necessity, be farther to the southward where conflict with *U. d. dumetaria* would be a factor. The similarity of the two Peruvian specimens from points as close as their respective localities and the fact that they are the only examples known from Perú, taken twelve years apart, one in May and the other in June, suggests a closer relationship of subspecies and locality than might be expected in a winter visitant.

There is a sight record of "*Upucerthia dumetaria*" from the sea-coast at Mollendo (Pässler, 1922, Jour. f. Orn., 70: 457-458, 1922) that is certainly in error. The species was said to be common from the coast to the mountains and from southern Chile to northern Perú, and its behavior in picking up small crabs, worms, and the like from the beach and wharves was described, but neither statement is acceptable for this Temperate Zone species, at least as far as Perú is concerned. Hellmayr (Field Mus. Nat. Hist., zool. ser., 19: 166, 1932) accepts Pässler's account as far as it concerns the Chilean records, assigning it to *U. d. saturation*, but since the bird is reported as living and even nesting along the coast, a statement at variance with other

accounts, even in Chile, it is equally doubtful that Pässler correctly identified the Chilean birds he saw.

The ranges of the various forms still need an exhaustive study since there are many disagreements in the areas cited by different workers. Some of the confusion no doubt is due to the fact that most, if not all, of the subspecies are migratory and occur together in their winter ranges, but even this will not explain all of the troublesome factors. Thus *U. d. dumetaria* appears to have been found breeding as far north as the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, but two specimens at hand from "Tova I. Lat. 45°" [=off the coast of Chubut] are certainly *hypoleuca*. They were taken in August and may be migrants, but if so they were found far south of their breeding range in Mendoza and northward.

At any rate, additional information on *peruana* and its distribution, either as a migrant or resident in Perú, will be awaited with much interest.

#### Specimens Examined

##### *U. d. peruana*.—

###### PERÚ:

East of Juliaca, 1 ♂ (type)<sup>1</sup> ;  
Chucuito, 1 ♂<sup>2</sup>

##### *U. d. hallinani*.—

###### ARGENTINA:

Tucumán, 1 ♂<sup>3</sup>, 1 ♀<sup>3</sup>;  
Angaco Sud, 1 ♂<sup>3</sup>.

###### CHILE:

Tofo, 1 ♂ (type).

##### *U. d. hypoleuca*.—

###### ARGENTINA:

Jujuy (Tilcara), 2 ♂, 1 ♀;  
Salta (Cachí), 2 ♂, 1 (♀);  
San Juan (Media Agua and Angaco Sud), 4 ♂, 2 ♀;  
Tucumán (Río Sali and Tafí del Valle), 4 ♂, 6 ♀;  
Córdoba (Cosquín), 1 ♂;  
Mendoza (Mendoza and Puente del Inca), 4 ♂, 6 ♀, 2 (♀);  
Chubut (Tova Island), 1 ♀, 1 (♀).

###### CHILE:

Aconcagua (Valle de los Pingüines), 1 ♂;  
Santiago, 1 ♂, 1 (♀).

##### *U. d. saturator*.—

###### CHILE:

Temuco (Maquehué), 1 ♀;  
O'Higgins (San Bernardo and San Francisco), 1 ♂, 1 ♀;  
Valparaiso (Quillota and Prov. de Valparaiso), 1 ♂, 1 ♀;  
Santiago (Alrededores de Santiago), 1 ♂;

<sup>1</sup>Specimen in Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California.

<sup>2</sup>Specimen in U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.

<sup>3</sup>Presumably migrants.

Colchagua (Prov. de Colchagua), 1 ♂;

“Chili,” 1 ♀.

*U. d.* (near) *saturation*.—

CHILE:

“Valparaiso,” 1 (♀);

“near Valparaiso,” 1 (♀);

“Chili,” 2 ♂.

*U. d. dumetaria*.—

ARGENTINA:

Santa Cruz (Rio Gallegos), 3 ♂.

CHILE:

Punta Arenas, 1 ♀.